



10/622,172

(Further Preliminary Amendment)

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Claims 1-45 (Canceled).

[The complete set of original claims 1-45 has been previously filed. Exhibit B hereto is the full text of the newly canceled claims in light of the restriction/election: claims 74 and 95-97].

46. (New) A wheeled carrier device, said device comprising:

a support base structure including a plurality of upwardly projecting stub walls and at least one bracing portion, defining a side elevational profile and an outer perimeter; and

at least one wheel support unit connected to said support base; said wheel support unit including wheel attaching means, and a wheel having an outer periphery, defining a plane and having a central axis of rotation, and said wheel support unit being movable between a first, operative position wherein said wheel is erected to provide rolling support for said support base and a part of the wheel support unit is at least partly abutting and braced by said bracing portion of the base structure, and wherein the plane defined by said wheel support unit extends substantially orthogonally to the side elevational profile of the support base, and a second, stowed position, the plane defined by said wheel of said wheel support unit being swept through an angle during movement of said wheel support unit between said first and second positions such that the plane defined by said wheel in the second position of said wheel support unit is

substantially within the side elevational profile of said support base and the wheel support unit is detached from said abutment with the said base structure bracing portion ; and

said wheel's central axis of rotation is wholly within, and the wheel's periphery is substantially within, the support base perimeter in said second, stowed position; and

at least one rigid handle secured to the carrier device, and movable from a first operative position, to a stowed position, substantially within the side elevational profile of the carrier device; and

at least one underside support which is movable from a first, operative position substantially orthogonal to the side elevational profile of the device support base, wherein the underside support affords support between the device support base and a rolling surface, to a second, stowed position substantially within the side elevational profile of said carrier device; and

releasable latching means, for positively latching said at least one wheel support unit, said at least one handle, and said at least one underside support in both of said first and second positions thereof.

47. (New) A device in accordance with claim 46 wherein said at least one handle comprises a pair of substantially elongate handle members, each one independently manipulable.

48. (New) A device in accordance with claim 46 wherein said at least one underside support comprises a pair of support members, each one independently manipulable.

49. (New) A device in accordance with claim 46 wherein the movement of the

wheel attaching means between the said first and second positions is approximately 90 degrees.

50. (New) A device in accordance with claim 46 wherein movement of the wheel attaching means between the said first and second positions is approximately 180 degrees.

51. (New) A device in accordance with claim 46 wherein the at least one wheel support unit wheel attaching means further includes:

at least one arm portion interconnected to the central axis of rotation of said wheel support unit; and

at least one brace engaging intermediate portion; and

in a first, operative position said brace engaging intermediate portion of said wheel support unit wheel attaching means at least partly abuts said support base bracing portion, and in a second, stowed position at least a part of said brace engaging intermediate portion is moved and is not in abutment with said support base bracing portion.

52. (New) A device in accordance with claim 46 in which at least one wheel and its central axis of rotation are directed in an inward direction in a second, stowed position in relation to center point of the support base structure.

53. (New) A device in accordance with claim 46 wherein at least one part of said base structure bracing portion is at least partly positioned near to the underside of the support base in said first position, causing gravitational force from downwardly applied weight to the device support base to maintain said first, operative wheel support unit position.

54. (New) A device in accordance with claim 46 wherein at least one user-controlled wheel braking means is mounted to the device.

55. (New) A device in accordance with claim 46 wherein the at least one wheel support unit is fixated against axial rotation in relation to its affixing axis, in said first, operative, latched position and when unlatched from said position, said at least one wheel is rotated along its affixing axis and moved into a second, stowed position substantially parallel with the support base, substantially within the side elevational profile of said support base.

56. (New) A device in accordance with claim 46 wherein the latch means which latches and releases the at least one wheel support unit in both said first and second positions is one and the same means.

57. (New) A device in accordance with claim 46 wherein the wheel support unit latch means is mounted within the side elevational profile of the support base structure of said device.

58. (New) A device in accordance with claim 46 wherein the wheel support unit latch means is mounted to the wheel support unit.

59. (New) A device in accordance with claim 46 wherein said wheel support unit latching means includes at least one spring-biased latch mounted to the wheel support unit.

60. (New) A device in accordance with claim 46 wherein said wheel support unit latching means includes at least one spring-biased latch mounted to the support base.

61. (New) A device in accordance with claim 46 wherein said wheel support unit latching means includes at least one sliding member mounted to the wheel support unit.

62. (New) A device in accordance with claim 46 wherein said wheel support unit latching means includes at least one resiliently movable member mounted to the wheel support unit.

63. (New) A device in accordance with claim 46 wherein said wheel support unit latching means includes at least one resiliently movable member mounted to the support base.

64. (New) A device in accordance with claim 46 wherein said support base is designed to hold cargo.

65. (New) A device in accordance with claim 46 wherein said support base is designed to hold at least one person.

66. (New) A device in accordance with claim 46 wherein a selectively movable mounting frame structure is at least partly movably mounted to the underside aspect of the support base structure, and the selectively movable mounting frame structure at least partly retains the at least one movable wheel support unit structure, at least part of at least one handle, and at least part of at least one underside support components.

67. (Canceled)

68. (New) A device in accordance with claim 46 wherein a friction element extends from not less than the central axis of rotation, along the radius of said wheel and across at least a portion of said wheel intended to contact the rolling surface and functions as a friction element, and in the friction element's operative position, the carrier device is at least partly tilted in the operative position, and said friction element is caused to engage the rolling surface to brace the carrier device against rolling

movement to facilitate cargo discharge.

69. (New) A device in accordance with claim 46 wherein the at least one handle is a substantially u-shaped handle.

70. (New) A device in accordance with claim 46 wherein the handle comprises at least two handle elements and each element is extensible outward, and retractable inward, in relation to the support base perimeter.

71. (New) A device in accordance with claim 46 wherein the wheel support unit wheel includes at least a partial cowl which does not contact the rolling surface when the device components are in the operative position, and when the device is moved into a partly tilted operative position angular to the rolling surface, the cowl is moved into a position in friction with the rolling surface, enabling dumping of device cargo without rolling movement of the at least one wheel.

72. (New) A device in accordance with claim 46 wherein at least one handle comprises at least two stages and at least one of said two stages pivots in relation to the support base; and

said pivotable at least one stage is latched against movement in the first, operative position, and said pivotable stage of said handle pivots in relation to the carrier device, and moves into a second stowed position more closely contiguous to the support base.

73. (New) A device in accordance with claim 72 wherein the pivot motion of said stage is near to 180 degrees.

74. (Canceled)

75. (New) A device in accordance with claim 46 wherein the movable handle includes a pair of elongate members, which each comprise at least two portions defining at least one extensible portion, and a second receiving portion, and the extensible portion is extended and is latched in relation to said receiving portion, in a first, operative position, and said extensible portion is at least partly retracted in relation to the receiving portion in a second, stowed position.

76. (New) A device in accordance with claim 46 wherein the handle comprises at least two stages and one stage is extensible in relation to said other at least one stage, and in a first, operative position at least one stage is maintained in extended relation to the other stage by virtue of a resiliently maintained détente, and upon manual manipulation of the détente, said one extensible stage is retracted into a second, stowed position in relation to said at least one other stage of the handle.

77. (New) A device in accordance with claim 46 wherein said underside supports comprise at least two generally matching supports which in the first, operative position are orthogonal to the underside of the support base and in said second, stowed position, each said underside support is pivoted and moved within the side elevational profile along the underside aspect of the said carrier device support base.

78. (New) A device in accordance with claim 77 wherein said underside supports at least partially overlay each other in the said second, stowed position.

79. (New) A device in accordance with claim 46 wherein said underside supports comprise at least two matching elements which in a first, operative position are orthogonal to the support base of said device, and in a second, stowed position such supports are pivoted at least near to 180 degrees to a stowed position along the perimeter of the device support base.

80. (New) A device in accordance with claim 79 wherein said stowed underside

supports serve as handles for lifting or manipulating the stowed carrier device.

81. (New) A device in accordance with claim 46 wherein the underside support is comprised of at least one u-shaped underside support.

82. (New) A device in accordance with claim 46 wherein at least one of said underside supports, in said second, stowed position, is resiliently retained to at least part of the outer perimeter of the support base structure of said device.

83. (New) A device in accordance with claim 46 wherein at least one further bracing support is movably mounted to at least a portion of the wheel support unit and movable to an operative position in bracing engagement with at least part of the support base structure to afford further bracing support to said wheel support unit in the said first, operative position.

84. (New) A device in accordance with claim 46 wherein the cargo retaining base structure of the carrier device includes a multiplicity of openings.

85. (New) A device in accordance with claim 46 wherein the support base retention base is constructed of a material which is at least partly flexible.

86. (New) A device in accordance with claim 46 wherein the upwardly projecting stub walls include a multiplicity of openings.

87. (New) A device in accordance with claim 46 wherein said upwardly projecting stub walls are constructed of at least a partly flexible material.

88. (New) A device in accordance with claim 46 wherein the base structure includes receiving portions which permit selective removal and retention of equipment.



89. (New) A device in accordance with claim 46 wherein one of at least two of said devices nests inside the base perimeter and at least partly within the side elevational profile of the other device, when both devices are in their second, stowed positions.

90. (New) A device in accordance with claim 46 wherein at least one of said carrier device components is in the first operative position, and another at least one of said carrier device components are in the second, stowed position, and the said stowed carrier device is nested inside the base perimeter and at least partly within the side elevational profile of the operative carrier device.

91. (New) A wheeled carrier device, said device comprising:

a support base structure including a plurality of upwardly projecting stub walls, defining a side elevational profile and a perimeter, as well as an interior and an underside aspect, and

at least one hand grasp serving as a handle; and

at least one underside support which affords support between the carrier device base and a rolling surface; and

at least one wheel support unit having a support axis interconnected to said support base; including wheel attaching means and a wheel defining a plane, and said wheel support unit being movable between a first, operative latched position wherein said wheel is erected to provide rolling support for said carrier device and is orthogonal to the support base; and

an intermediate, unlatched wheel position in which the wheel of said wheel support unit is rotated approximately ninety degrees in relation to the support axis

position of the wheel when occupying the operative position; and

a stowed, latched wheel position, wherein the said wheel's plane is substantially contiguous to the outer aspect of the support base substantially within the side elevational profile of the support base; and

releasable latching means, for positively latching said at least one wheel support unit in both the operative and stowed positions.

92. (New) A device in accordance with claim 91, wherein the second, stowed latched wheel position is substantially parallel with the support base, and is along the underside aspect of the support base.

93. (New) A device in accordance with claim 91 wherein a selectively movable mounting frame structure is at least partly movably mounted to the underside aspect of the support base structure, and the selectively movable mounting frame structure also at least partly has mounted thereto the at least one movable wheel support unit structure.

94. (New) A device in accordance with claim 91 wherein a selectively movable mounting frame structure is at least partly movably mounted to the underside aspect of the support base structure, and the selectively movable mounting frame structure also at least partly has mounted thereto the at least one movable wheel support unit structure, at least part of at least one movable handle, and at least part of at least one movable underside support.

95-97 (Canceled).

98. (New) A device in accordance with claim 91 wherein the movement of at least part of the wheel attaching means of the wheel support unit between the said first and second positions is near to 180 degrees.

99. (New) A device in accordance with claim 91 wherein the latching means for the wheel support unit mounted to the support base include at least one spring biased

latch which interacts with a portion of the wheel attaching means of the wheel support unit to provide latching of the wheel support unit in at least the first, operative position.

100. (New) A device in accordance with claim 91 wherein the at least one handle includes an extensible portion and a receiving portion, and provides a handle latching means and selective manual manipulation to secure the extensible handle portion in relation to the receiving portion in both an extended and retracted position in relation to the support base perimeter.

101. (New) A device in accordance with claim 91 wherein the at least one underside support includes a manually manipulable latch which interacts with the underside support to permit movement of the underside support between the first, operative and second, stowed positions.

102. (New) A device in accordance with claim 91 wherein a shaped portion at least near to the free upper edge of at least one stub wall serves as a hook receiving area to permit the carrier device to be hung by a hook on a vertical surface.

103. (New) A wheeled carrier device, said device comprising:

a support base structure including a plurality of upwardly projecting stub walls , defining a side elevational profile and an outer perimeter; and

at least one wheel support unit affixed to said support base; said wheel support unit including wheel attaching means and an affixing axis, and a wheel having an outer periphery, defining a plane and having a central axis of rotation, and said wheel support unit being movable between a first, operative position wherein said wheel is erected to provide rolling support for said support base, and wherein the plane defined by said wheel support unit extends substantially orthogonally to the side elevational profile of the support base, and a second, stowed position, the plane defined by said wheel of said wheel support unit being swept through an angle during movement of said wheel support

unit between said first and second positions such that the plane defined by said wheel in the second position of said wheel support unit is near to parallel with the support base underside and substantially within the side elevational profile of said support base and at least part of the wheel attaching means is moved near to 180 degrees between the said first and second positions; and

said wheel's central axis of rotation is wholly within, and the wheel's periphery is substantially within, the support base perimeter in said second, stowed position; and

at least one hand grasp is a component of the carrier device; and

at least one underside support affords support between the device support base and a rolling surface; and

releasable latching means, for positively latching said at least one wheel support unit in both of said first and second positions thereof.

104. (New) A wheeled carrier device, said device comprising:

a support base structure including a plurality of upwardly projecting stub walls and a bracing portion, defining a side elevational profile and an outer perimeter; and

at least one wheel support unit affixed to said support base; said wheel support unit including wheel attaching means, and a wheel having an outer periphery, defining a plane and having a central axis of rotation, and said wheel support unit being movable between a first, operative position wherein said wheel is erected to provide rolling support for said support base and wherein the plane defined by said wheel support unit extends substantially orthogonally to the side elevational profile of the support base, and a second, stowed position, the plane defined by said wheel of said wheel support unit being swept through an angle during movement of said wheel support unit between said first and second positions in a direction inward toward the center point of the support base, and the

plane defined by said wheel in the second position of said wheel support unit is substantially parallel with and substantially within the side elevational profile of said support base; and

said wheel's central axis of rotation is wholly within, and the wheel's periphery is substantially within, the support base perimeter in said second, stowed position; and

at least one hand grasping component and at least one underside support secured to the carrier device; and

said wheel attaching means of the wheel support unit include at least one first portion connected to the support base, and a brace engaging intermediate portion, and a further portion interconnected to the said wheel's central axis of rotation; and

the support base bracing portion serves as both a support and receiving means for engaging a part of the brace engaging intermediate portion of the wheel attaching means of the wheel support unit when the wheel attaching means are in the first, operative position, and when the wheel support unit is in the said second, stowed position at least part of the said brace engaging intermediate portion of the wheel attaching means is disengaged from contact with said bracing portion; and

releasable latching means, for positively latching said at least one wheel support unit in both of said first and second positions.

105. (New) A wheeled carrier device, said device comprising:

a support base structure including a plurality of upwardly projecting stub walls and a bracing portion, defining a side elevational profile and an outer perimeter; and

at least one handle secured to the carrier device, movable from a first extended operative position, to a stowed retracted position where the handle is received substantially by a pair of handle receiving portions, substantially within the side elevational

profile of the carrier device; and

at least one underside support movable from a first, operative position substantially orthogonal to the side elevational profile of the device support base, wherein the underside support affords support between the device support base and a rolling surface, to a second, stowed position substantially within the side elevational profile of said carrier device; and

at least one wheel support unit connected along a support axis to said support base; said wheel support unit including wheel attaching means, and a wheel having an outer periphery, defining a plane and having a central axis of rotation, and said wheel support unit being movable between a first, operative position wherein said wheel is erected to provide rolling support for said support base and wherein the plane defined by said wheel support unit extends substantially orthogonally to the side elevational profile of the support base, and a second, stowed position, the plane defined by said wheel of said wheel support unit being swept through an angle during movement of said wheel support unit between said first and second positions in a direction inward toward the center point of the support base, and the plane defined by said wheel in the second position of said wheel support unit is substantially contiguous to the support base underside aspect and is substantially within the side elevational profile of said support base; and

said wheel's central axis of rotation is wholly within, and the wheel's periphery is substantially within, the support base perimeter in said second, stowed position and the stowed wheel is situated substantially horizontally between the said pair of handle receiving portions; and

said wheel attaching means of the wheel support unit define a support axis, and include at least one first portion connected to the support base, a brace engaging intermediate portion, and a further portion interconnected to the said wheel's central axis of rotation; and

the support base bracing portion serves as both a support and receiving means for engaging a part of the brace engaging intermediate portion of the wheel attaching means of the wheel support unit when the wheel attaching means are in the first, operative position, and when the wheel support unit is unlatched from said first, operative position, the wheel is rotated approximately ninety degrees in relation to said support axis and in the second, stowed position at least part of the said brace engaging intermediate portion of the wheel attaching means is disengaged from contact with said support base bracing portion; and

releasable latching means, for positively latching said at least one wheel support unit, said at least one handle, and said at least one underside support in both of said first and second positions thereof.